

Welcome

Welcome to the February edition of the Smithfield Environmental Newsletter. This newsletter is provided to you by the Environmental Affairs Department to assist in communication between facilities on environmental issues. To submit articles for future newsletters: please contact Natalie Mackie at (757) 357-1542 or Ruth Debrito (757) 365-3593.

February/March

February 20 Presidents Day

February 27 Wilson Internal Audit

February 28 Tier II's Due at all facilities

February 28 Waste Hauler permit Due Plant City

February 28-March 1 Tar Heel Internal Audit

March 1 Air Emission report due Plant City & Madison

March 1 HRSD Award submission due

March 7-8 Stadler's Internal Audit

March 22-23 Wilson Surveillance Audit

March 23-24 Stadler's Surveillance Audit

March 27-28 Plant City Surveillance Audit

March 31 Gwaltney, Smithfield and Ham & Products
Emission report due

EMS Corner

On January 18, 2006, the annual EMS workshop was conducted at the Marriott Waterside Hotel in Norfolk. Among the many topics discussed, Meghan Smith of Malcom Pirnie covered implementation of the 2004 ISO 14001 standard. The workshop offered time to plan implementation of the new standard into the facilities own programs. The teams also had opportunities to interact and discuss their achievements, goals, and successes with other facilities.

The workshop opened with Jere Null showing his support of the programs and answering questions. Also speaking at the workshop was Robert Harris from

the Engineering Dept. helping to answer questions on the Environmental Check off lists from Capital Appropriation Requests. Chris Ciucci from Stellar group was a presenter showing some of the points of PSM/RMP and the software-managing tool being implemented by Stellar at the facilities.



Jere Null at the conference



Norman Fisher showing the Governor's Excellence Award

Teams remember that this year's internal audits will contain the upgrades from the 1996 standard to the 2004 standards. Use the booklet from the workshop as a general guide, and contact Natalie Mackie, Ruth Debrito or Nicole Santure for additional help.

The overall response at the end of the workshop was positive and the next one should follow in January of 2007.

New Laws & Regs



Correct Change Only!

...EPA has recently taken Methyl Ethyl Ketone (MEK) off the list of air toxins. This means that MEK will not be regulated with maximum achievable control technology rules, but will continue to be regulated as a VOC. Many facilities use MEK in the printer jets for packaging.

...North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (NCDENR) establishes rules regarding water conservation and reuse during times of drought and emergency water situations.

...NCDENR clarifies rules regarding hazardous waste, specifically facility specifications, labeling of containers prohibitions and metal recyclers. This became effective Dec. 1, 2005.

...Florida's Department of Revenue has changed forms used for solid waste fees

New Form R or Bust!

Several States are appealing to the federal environmental officials regarding the new shortened form for TRI reporting. These forms were designed to save time and money spent on filling them out, but is causing many groups to feel that the information is not enough. Public disclosure is often the strong arm used to help polluters clean up their act.

The forms would replace the current 500 lbs. threshold with 5,000 lbs and contain less detailed information. Reports would be required every two years rather than annually.

Smithfield North & South are pleased to announce some additions of new lines, and some new EMS activities. At Smithfield North, an automated loin puller line has been installed. This replaces manual labor to clear the loin of the ribs. The loin line has already shown increase in yields, resulting in less in the meat scrap area.

The other new section is the Microwave bacon lines. These new lines were designed to yield 9 million pounds of pre-cooked bacon slices and 6 million pounds in bacon bits annually. Although these two lines might not seem to impact the EMS or environmental activities of the facility much, they present new activities to the list, and potential new problems.

Microwaves will eventually break, then what. What do you do to dispose of the radioactive materials? The cooking will produce large amounts of oils and grease, where will they go? Will these add to a waste stream? Smithfield North has taken these new challenges into consideration for this year's EMS and is working to make sure that the new lines produce minimal impacts.



New hog pens and harvest operations construction

Smithfield South had a large impact not only in the loss of whole departments, but the changes

create a new department. The Kill and Cut departments have been shut down and the area is being revamped to become a case ready area. Both sides have their share of construction going on to create space for the new lines.

Smithfield South also has changes happening in the rendering operations. The installation of an enclosed grinding system, new fuel-efficient bio-diesel approved boilers are going in and new loading from the grease of the bacon lines coming in. All this can make for one large headache if it's not placed into the EMS correctly.

Something to consider with the New EMS 2004 Standard, facilities must consider planned, new or modified activities, products and/or services. Other facilities will also need to look at new lines before they are added to help meet this ISO standard change.



New Boilers at Rendering, Smithfield South

Better Buys

🌐 Best Buy Company is starting to recycle old cell phones. The company recently launched a program, which allows customers to mail in old cell phones to a recycler, for FREE. Better yet, it also benefits a national youth organization, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. For every cell phone sent in, the clubs receive a \$1 donation. The company gives the purchasers of new cell phones the postage paid envelopes.

🌐 Ford is set to launch 4 more hybrid vehicles to their lineup. The Ford Five Hundred and Edge, the Mercury Montego, and the Lincoln MKX are all going to be put on lots between 2008 and 2010. This is good news amid sky rocketing gas prices and Ford's labor force reductions. The Ford family also hopes to release the Fusion and Mercury Milan. They anticipate building 250,000 hybrids by 2010. Smithfield is a member to the Ford discount program, the X Plan; check with your facility management for further information.



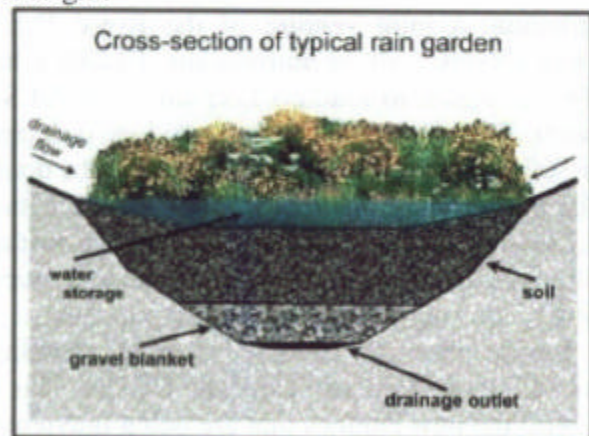
🌐 Infineum, a joint venture of the Royal Dutch Shell and Exxon, will be introducing ULSD, Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel, to markets later this year. ULSD removes 97% of the sulfur from the product, dropping it from 500 ppm to 15 ppm. This will without a doubt cut sulfide emissions from the combustion. Creating the ULSD also detracts from some of the lubricating capabilities of the diesel. This will require frequent checking of the engines fuel injection components.

By October 15, 2006, 80% of all refueling stations and truck stops will carry the ULSD. This is in line with the new engines that are being previewed for 2007. The new engines are designed to meet the emission standard changes, but many companies are worried that they will be expensive and have reduced fuel economy.

Peterbilt, Kenworth and Freightliner have placed new engines in service with multiple applications, some as early as 2005. The companies wanted to test the new engines to help ensure their marketability. The summer testing season information has shown that the units are meeting the goals for reliability, maintenance and serviceability.

Shining in the Rain

Want some really nice help with the stormwater at your facility? Here's a two-prong defense. Bio retentions or Rain gardens! They can be anywhere from several inches to several feet in depth depending the amount of rain your garden will service. The idea is simple, use nature to help itself. A rain garden for industrial settings usually starts with under piping that can channel the water away during times of heavy saturation, and a filter style fabric. This fabric acts as a filter to help remove sediment of very small sizes. Sand and gravel are placed over the fabric layers, followed by topsoil and at least 6 inches of mulch. (Mulch can absorb up to its own weight in water). You then plant species of Day lilies, Black-eyed Susan's, New England Aster and other long root varieties as well as some shrubs. These plants should be hearty rain or drought.



These gardens are not maintenance free; they need plant maintenance, changing of the mulch and the fabric lasts up to 20 years. A 100 square foot garden can absorb 625 gallons of water from a 0.1-inch rainfall, saving money needed to treat stormwater. These are even bigger pluses environmentally. The area of grass that the garden replaces no longer causes emissions from a lawn mower, the plants often provide ecological systems for native wildlife, and they are very aesthetically pleasing to facilities.



Home styled gardens can be just a few inches deep and are down hill from a spout. Another great spot is at your home's air conditioner condensate pipe. Start with a style of the garden, and using a simple water hose, make sure the garden is where the water will flow. Once you have removed grass and soil from the area, replace the soil with a water moving-soil sold at most garden centers and again add several inches of mulch. Some times garden centers or extension agents can make suggestions of plants, depending the placement, if its shady or dry in your area. These look to be normal gardens, so don't be shy of adding a bit of art or bird feeder. Some herbs do well in these and can help to fragrance the air.



Not the Cure

Wastewater is now being challenged to face a new pollutant, medications. Traces of medicines are showing up more and more in the wastewater, either from toilet/garbage disposals or excretions. It's beginning to become a problem, especially with narcotic meds. Pharmaceutical companies are working with EPA to help eliminate these problems.